

September 24, 1998

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director's Report

Material Distributed at the Meeting:

Delta Levees: Information has been developed for the CALFED Levee program which estimates the costs of bringing all the non-project levees up to PL 84-99 standards. The Commission asked staff to develop this information, but the project was beyond the means of the Commission. This work has been carried out jointly by Murray Burns and Kienlen and Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck; two firms which have extensive experience in the Delta working on reclamation district levees.

Summary of comment on the CALFED Draft Environmental Document

An estimate of costs associated with Phase I of the CALFED Program

An update on the Grasslands monitoring documents from the Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meetings Attended:

Public Meeting on the North Delta National Wildlife Refuge
Met with new Director of San Joaquin County COG--Julia Greene
Site Visit to Jepsen Prairie Preserve and Calhoun Cut Property owned by DFG
SWRCB first meeting on Statewide regulations to address use of Sludge/Biosolids
Site Visit to Cosumnes Preserve
Met with North Delta landowners re: Flood Issues and CALFED Modeling of North Delta
Resources Agency: Delta Levee and Habitat Advisory Committee Meetings
Spoke at Walnut Grove Rotary
Delta Levee Road Task Force Meetings
Winter Island Site Visit to Observe Reuse of Dredged Material for Habitat Protection
Delta In-Channel Island Work Group
Meeting to Discuss Possible Revisions to DBW's High Water Operations/Delta Closure
Speaker at Rio Vista Lion's Club (with Commissioner Fred Harris)
Meeting with Senator Rainey's staff re Possible changes to SB 172 (Abandoned Vessel Removal Program)

CALFED Meetings Attended:

Levees CMARP
Public Meeting at Roberts Union Farm Center
Assurances Work Group
Levees and Channels Work Group
BDAC Public Meeting in Stockton
Subsidence Subgroup of Levees and Channels

Lori Clamurro has attended CALFED and other meetings:

Public Meetings at Roberts Island and Stockton
Ecosystem Roundtable
Ecosystem Restoration Work Group
Public Affairs
Water Quality Technical Group
Water Transfers Work Group
BDAC Meeting in Stockton
Sacramento River Watershed Program Stakeholders Meeting
Public Meeting on North Delta Wildlife Refuge
Splittail/Yolo Bypass Meeting
Site Visit to Jepsen Prairie Preserve and Calhoun Cut

Other Items of Interest:

Great Valley Center has awarded LEGACI grants. In the Delta area grants include: \$45,000 to Yolo Land Trust for general support; \$20,000 to Yolo Basin Foundation to plan a visitor center; \$10,000 to Ducks Unlimited to advance wildlife-friendly land management; \$4,000 to Bass and Wolf to develop a learning map of the Delta.

Department of Conservation has given \$1.1 million dollars for the Agricultural Land Stewardship Program which will protect more than 1,000 ac of AG land. The projects are in Ventura County, near Escalon in San Joaquin County and near Davis in Yolo County.

DBW's new PWC Newsletter: Two stroke engines and MBTE issues; new laws, etc. MBTE is also the focus of the July/August issue of Western Water.

Egeria Densa Removal Program: DWR is preparing the environmental document for DBW; the current estimated date for release of the environmental document is June 1999. There are concerns in the Contra Costa County "waterfront" community, however, based on the need for research and monitoring, the due date had to be extended.

1998 Marina Directory: Prepared by DBW; covers all marinas, statewide.

PBS show: Setting a Course: The California Bay Delta, funded by the Water Education Foundation and others was aired recently. The video is available from the Water Education Foundation for \$25.

Update on Ad Hoc Group's Alternative approach toward habitat restoration in the Delta: The memo reviewed by the Commission at the last meeting was presented to CALFED's BDAC at its recent meeting in Stockton. The paper was well received and the Chair of BDAC directed staff to incorporate the ideas in the paper into the revised project alternative currently being developed.